

The Mirror

OF

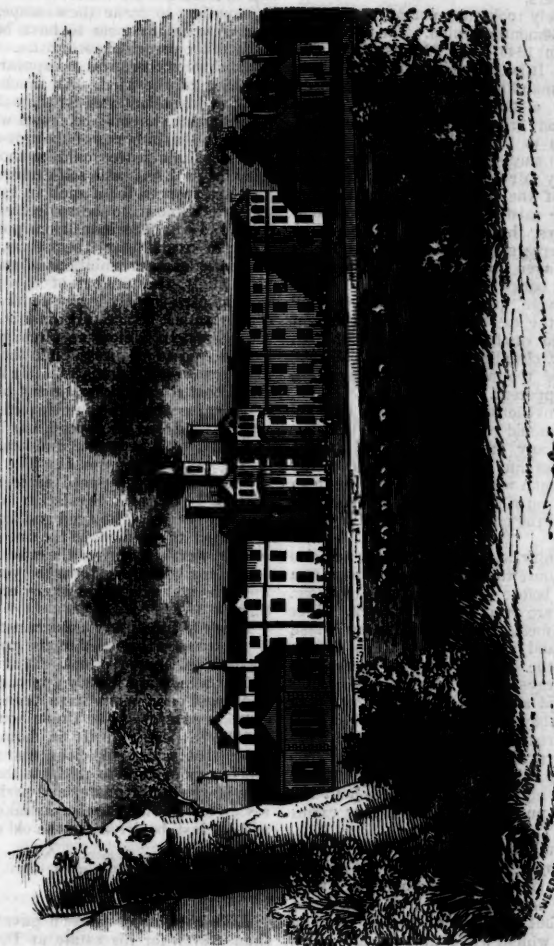
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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THE EDMONTON UNION.

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Original Communications.

THE EDMONTON UNION.

So much has been said on the uses and abuses of the Poor Law Unions, that perhaps it may not be unacceptable to many readers of the 'Mirror' to receive a little evidence on the subject. To state particular facts ought to give offence to no one; to form opinions and to draw general conclusions is a task or a duty which may be left to others.

We lately took an opportunity of visiting the Edmonton Union. The house was erected in 1841-2, by Messrs Scott and Moffatt. It is of considerable magnitude and commanding aspect. It has been raised in a fine, open situation, on a clayey and gravelly soil. It stands on five acres of land, of which nearly three have been successfully brought into cultivation by Mr Barroclough, the present master of the establishment. However great the misfortunes of its inmates in other days, their friends must be in no small degree consoled to find so comfortable a haven prepared to receive their shattered barks after the storm.

We were permitted to inspect all parts of the establishment, and the sight was in no small degree gratifying, from the order, cleanliness, and regard for the comfort of the inmates which everywhere seemed apparent.

The provisions are good, and the allowance we should consider ample. Without affecting any stoical indifference to the luxuries of life, we must say we hardly pity the man who in an ordinary way can hope for no richer fare. The bread, the meat, and the oatmeal, were all of superior quality.

On inquiry we found it was the practice of the house to ring up the paupers at a quarter before seven in the morning. Prayers are read at seven o'clock. Three efficient meals are provided—breakfast, dinner, and supper. At seven in the evening the inmates are again assembled to hear prayers, after which the bed rooms are opened and they may retire to rest as soon as they please. They are, however, not required to withdraw immediately, but generally avail themselves of the privilege with little delay. For the most part all are in bed by eight o'clock, at which hour the fires are put out and the lights extinguished.

The building, it will be seen from the accompanying woodcut, is in the Elizabethan style. It seems to afford every requisite accommodation; of course we render but imperfect justice to the grounds, which, while they present many agreeable objects to the eye, offer the means of furnishing varieties of healthful exercise. Those who are in health culti-

vate parts of it, and a large crop of excellent potatoes was raised from the soil in the last summer, while a good supply of winter greens remained in the ground.

From many parts of the country complaints have been made of the dietary, and of the Union system, as if the object of those who have the poor in charge was to render the workhouse not an asylum for sorrow but a scene of punishment for crime. To terrify those without, that they may dread to come within its walls, and to torture those within, that they may be impatient to make their escape, would seem in some instances to have been the study of the parochial authorities. In this establishment there was no appearance of anything of the kind. As much consideration was manifested for the well-being of the inmates as could be shown with due regard to the interests of the rate-payers. Excessive indulgence would be monstrous injustice in itself, and self-destructive in its consequences, for if such an establishment were known to be so decidedly preferable to what the industrious poor could hope to realize for themselves, as to make the labourer ambitious of gaining a place in it, the number of the paupers would be so largely increased that their comforts must be speedily diminished. In the Edmonton Union, as already stated, work seems to be provided in the garden for the able bodied inmates. We have not heard that shirt-making, or any branch of industry, on which the humble parishioners may be supposed to depend, has been introduced. All is quiet, and health and content seemed to prevail. The classification is dictated by good sense, and one wise and humane regulation deserves especial notice. The aged and infirm are permitted to promenade the fine grounds in fair weather during the whole of the day, being kept apart from the young and the dissolute, who might annoy or disturb them.

Every friend to humanity must rejoice if the laws for the relief of the poor could be rendered more perfect. That starvation or something closely approaching it, and cruel oppressions have been experienced in several of the Union houses, can hardly be doubted. It is, however, in proof that under judicious management much may be done to mitigate the sufferings of the unfortunate, and perhaps, on a view of the whole, the impartial observer will, at last, be driven to the old say—

"For forms of government let fools contest,
Whichever's best administered is best."

Dulwich College.—Alleyne gave no less than 8,870*l.* for his estate at Dulwich—more than 40,000*l.*, of our present money! This entitled him to be called "a glorious vagabond."

THIEVES ARE MADMEN.

(For the Mirror.)

A THIEF is an odious character, but when we look at the course of law in England the sanity of a man who is guilty of what is commonly called thieving may fairly be doubted.

The robber on the highway perils life and limb for a watch and a purse, and thinks himself in great luck if he gain a prize worth 100*l*.

Let the same person apply his mind to business in a more sensible way, and without risk, in the character of a friend or legal adviser, he may appropriate to himself 100,000*l*.

We continually see ruffians and scoundrels, who have plundered their confiding neighbours, who have stripped unconscious infancy and helpless age, brought before commissioners as insolvents or bankrupts, and after a little scolding allowed to walk off and commence a new career of fraud. The villains who have figured in the Courts of Bankruptcy and Insolvent Debtors within ten years of this date deserve a Newgate Calendar to themselves.

In the last week the public prints have given a report of the proceedings in the case of a "highly respectable solicitor," Mr William Bromley, of Gray's inn. He has been called highly respectable, and we have no wish to deny that he is so, lest that law which allows the miscreants we have described (but to whom we have not likened Mr William Bromley) to go off scott free, should discover that we ought to be punished for a libel. We shall, therefore, only mention a few facts.

The debts on Mr William Bromley's estate have been estimated at 120,000*l*.

"Money," it was stated, "had been paid off on mortgages which the bankrupt had pretended to advance to other parties, and till the last quarter he had paid the interest as if the mortgages existed, although he had never advanced a farthing."

In this way the unfortunate creditors lost their property. For a time they received interest, as did the rifled dupes at some of the pretended charitable institutions, and then found that their principal had vanished for ever.

Thus thousands and thousands of pounds have been confiscated, and now the debts "in re William Bromley, of Gray's inn, solicitor," are "estimated at 120,000*l*."

When the case was called on Mr William Bromley was not present, and for this he was reproved when at length he thought fit to appear, and told that even if he were in ill health he ought to attend the early part of the meeting.

That was severe; but if, instead of appearing in the Bankruptcy Court for debts estimated at 120,000*l*, Mr William Brom-

ley had been charged at the Old Bailey with stealing a leg of mutton value 5*s*., his ill health would not have saved him from being dragged to the bar the moment his case came on, and probably at the end of a couple of hours he would have been sentenced to long banishment.

Such being the case—since the laws of England are so severe on thieving, what man in his sound senses would be dishonest? He must be of wretchedly weak intellect who would rob on the highway or steal in a dwelling-house to expose himself for a mere trifle to the horrors of a gaol or transportation, when by merely borrowing or running in debt to the amount of 120,000*l*, he may have the honour of handling much larger sums of other people's money; he may enjoy the luxury of seeing whole families ruined, children destitute and parents in despair, and still be only a bankrupt or an insolvent, anon to stand before the world again, if such his profession, a highly respectable solicitor.

SUPERSTITIOUS FANCIES.—SISTER GERMAINE.

The extravagant fancies indulged in Catholic countries seemed excessively ridiculous to plain, jog-trot Protestants. M. Saint Hilaire, the traveller, has given some curious instances of it. In one place, travelling in Brazil, he brings before us a cross, which had been erected, as he learned from an inscription on its base, at the request or command of a number of unhappy souls, temporarily escaped from purgatory, who on that spot fluttered in the form of doves round the horse of a traveller, and expressed their desires in human voice!

This is pretty well; but perhaps, in these mesmerizing days, the story of Sister Germaine, as related by him, will be more interesting. In the *comarcas* of Sabará and Villa Rica, he had heard much of a female named Germaine, whose ecstasies had given her great celebrity. About the year 1808 she was attacked by a hysterical affection, accompanied by violent convulsions. She was at first exorcised; but her condition degenerated from bad to worse. At the period of my visit, she had been for a long time reduced to so extreme a state of weakness, that she was no longer able to rise from her bed, and subsisted upon a regimen which would scarcely have supported the life of a new-born infant, and it was almost always necessary to use considerable persuasion to decide her to eat at all. Every one admitted that the manners of Germaine had always been pure, her conduct irreproachable. During the progress of her disorder, her devotion had daily assumed a more enthusiastic character. Fridays and Saturdays she fasted entirely; at first, her mother opposed this prac-

tice; but when Germaine declared that, during those two days, it was utterly impossible for her to take any nourishment, she was allowed to have her own way. To indulge her devotion for the Virgin, she caused herself to be transported to the Serra de Piedade, where there is a chapel erected under the auspices of Our Lady of Pity, and she obtained from her spiritual director permission to remain in this asylum. In this retreat, meditating one day on the mystery of the passion, she fell into a kind of ecstasy; her arms grew stiff and were extended in the form of a cross; her feet were disposed in the same attitude; and in this position she remained during forty-eight hours. This, for years afterwards, was weekly repeated. She relapsed into her ecstatic attitude on Thursday or Friday night, and continued in a sort of trance until Saturday evening, or Sunday, without receiving the slightest nourishment, without speech or movement.

Thousands of persons of all ranks crowded to behold what was declared to be a miracle; Sister Germaine was regarded as a Saint, and two surgeons of the province communicated an additional impulse to the veneration of the people by declaring, in a written document, that her situation was supernatural. This declaration remained in manuscript; but was widely circulated, and numerous copies of it were taken. Dr Gomide, an able physician educated at Edinburgh, thought it necessary to refute the declaration of the two surgeons; and in 1814 published at Rio de Janeiro (but without his name) a small pamphlet, replete with science and logic, in which he proves, by a multitude of authorities, that the ecstasies of Germaine were merely the effects of catalepsy.

The public was now divided in opinion; but crowds continued to ascend the Serra, to admire the prodigy operated there. Father Cypriano da Santissima Trindade, the late bishop of Marianna, a prudent enlightened man, sensible of the inconveniences which might arise from the numerous assemblies collected by Sister Germaine upon the mountain, and desirous of discrediting the pretended miracle, from which there resulted at least as much scandal as edification, prohibited the celebration of mass at La Piedade, under pretence that permission had never been obtained from the king. Many persons offered Germaine an asylum in their houses; but she gave the preference to her confessor, a grave, middle-aged man, who resided in the vicinity of the mountain. The devotees were greatly afflicted at the prohibition of the bishop of Marianna: but they did not sleep; they solicited from the king himself permission to celebrate mass in the chapel of the Serra, and it was granted them. Germaine was now trans-

ported a second time to the summit of the mountain; her confessor occasionally ascended thither for the celebration of mass; and the concourse of pilgrims and curious persons was weekly renewed.

"A short time previous to my visit," says M. Saint Hilaire, "a new prodigy began to manifest itself. Every Tuesday she experienced an ecstasy of several hours; her arms quitted their natural position, and assumed the figure of a cross behind her back. In the course of my conversation with her confessor, he told me that for some time he was unable to explain this phenomenon, until he at length recollected that on this day it was customary to propose to the meditations of the faithful the sufferings of Christ bound. The disinterestedness and charity of this priest had been described to me in glowing colours. I had a long conversation with him, and found him a person not altogether destitute of education. He spoke of his penitent without enthusiasm; professed to desire that enlightened men should study her condition; and almost the only reproach he uttered against Dr Gomide was, that he had written his book without having seen the holy woman. If what this priest related to me of the ascendancy he possessed over Germaine be not exaggerated, the partisans of animal magnetism would probably derive from it strong arguments in support of their system. He, in fact, assured me that in the midst of the most fearful convulsions, it was always sufficient for him to touch the patient to restore her to perfect tranquillity. During her periodical ecstasies, when her limbs were so stiff that it would have been easier to break than bend them, her confessor, according to his own account, had only to touch her arm, in order to give it whatever position he thought proper. However this may be, it is certain that having commanded her to receive the sacrament, during one of these ecstatic trances, she rose with a convulsive movement from the bed on which she had been carried to the church, and kneeling down, with her arms crossed, received the consecrated wafer; since which time she has always communicated during her ecstasies. At the same time, her confessor spoke with extreme simplicity of his empire over the pretended saint; attributed it wholly to her docility and veneration for the sacerdotal character; and added, that any other priest would have been able to produce the same effects. With all that confidence which the magnetisers require in their adepts, he observed, that so complete is the obedience of the poor girl, that, should I command her to abstain from food during a whole week, she would not hesitate to comply. He was also persuaded, that she would have suffered no inconvenience from the expe-

riment; but added, 'I fear I should be tempting God by making it.'

"I requested permission to see Germaine, and was conducted into a small chamber where she constantly reclined. Her countenance was visible, though partly overshadowed by a large handkerchief which projected over her forehead; she appeared to be about thirty-four years of age, and in fact this was the age attributed to her. Her physiognomy was mild and agreeable, but indicative of extreme emaciation and debility. I inquired respecting her health, and she replied in an exceedingly feeble voice, that it was much better than she deserved. I felt her pulse, and was surprised to find it very rapid.

"On the following Friday I again visited Germaine. She was in bed, stretched upon her back, with her head enveloped in a handkerchief, and her arms extended in the form of a cross; one of them was prevented by the wall from occupying its proper position, the other projected beyond the bed-side, and was supported by a stool. Her hand felt extremely cold, the thumb and forefinger were extended, but the others fingers were bent, the knees drawn up, and the feet placed over each other. In this position she was perfectly immovable; and her pulse being scarcely perceptible, she might have been taken for a corpse, if the rise and fall of the bosom in the act of respiration had not indicated the presence of life. I several times attempted to bend her arms, but without success; the rigidity of the muscles increased in proportion to my efforts, which could not have been more violent without inconvenience to the patient. Certainly I more than once closed her hands; but on releasing the fingers they resumed their former position. Germaine's sister, who generally attended her and was then present, informed me that she was not always so calm during her ecstasies as on that occasion; that her arms and feet indeed constantly remained immovable, but that she frequently uttered sighs and groans, struck her head against the pillow with rapidity, the convulsive movements being most violent about three o'clock, the moment at which Jesus Christ expired."

It was M. De Saint Hilaire's intention, on ascending the Serra, to try the effect of animal magnetism upon Germaine during her ecstasies; but for this purpose it would have been necessary to have been left alone with her, and this the pious crowds, attracted thither by the fame of her extraordinary trances, would not permit. Subsequently the authorities found it necessary to remove the saint from her mountain residence; shortly after which, death came to the relief of poor sister Germaine, and put a period to her sufferings.

MIRACLES OF NATURE.

Dr MACULLOCH, in his able book called 'Proofs and Illustrations of the Attributes of God,' has the following beautiful passage in his chapter on water:—

"The cloud at least is tangible water: it might have been no difficult problem to float air in air, dissolved water in the atmosphere: we would gladly believe that it was not. But this was not sufficient. The stores of water were to be transported in masses to the places where they were required; He collects it into masses, and He causes these to float in that atmosphere so much lighter than water, that His winds may lead them wheresoever they are wanted. Does any one consider the enormous weights which are supported in this marvellous manner, the seas of water which are thus suspended, and carried along like a feather before the breeze? The torrents which fall from them will tell him what those weights are: it is a whole lake which descends from the heavens in an instant: a lake which, an hour before, was a hundred miles away, lighter than the thistle's down. Thus had it struck an ancient philosopher:—'He bindeth up the waters in His thick clouds, and the cloud is not rent under them.' Nothing in the whole of this great process is explained. The cloud was formed from dissolved water: why does it not dissolve again? or why not always, as it does sometimes? It is the feeblest of substances and structures; yet it is not injured by the most violent winds. The gale which in an instant tears the stout canvas, the hurricane which whirls a forest into the air, carry before them the tender cloud unhurt: and though they may change the form, they do not destroy what they might have torn to pieces and dispersed in atoms. It has been commanded them that they abstain, as it was appointed to them to conduct the cloud to its destination; and the storms are obedient to His will. What is this force of adhesion, this power of evading violence, in that which is without strength and without weight? It may be electricity; but it is still the power and the hand of the Creator. It is one of the miracles of nature: and it is but through its frequency and familiarity that it is not truly a miracle. Had it occurred but once, it would have been this; and it does not cease to be a wonderful exertion of power because it happens daily. The cloud falls in rain; the cause may again be electricity; but we are as ignorant as before. All is marvellous, and all is unintelligible. If the winds transport the clouds as they list, so does the rain fall as it chooses, and no one shall say why. It is above us and around us, yet it will not descend; it is solicited, but it passes by. What, who is the agent of all this? It is not chance;

for even amid apparent caprice, the results are too certain, and the good effects too steady. If anywhere, it is here that we ought to see His hand, since we can see nothing else ; no secondary cause, no deputed power. What physical power, indeed, could have been deputed to perform all that is thus done on the earth ? Electricity, change of temperature, anything which science chooses might produce the single effect ; but how is the whole chain conducted, and all the results ruled ? Can a physical agent be conceived, acting thus irregularly, never acting twice alike, yet ever producing the same great average effects ? Physical agents, under laws, are regular in their actions ; for regularity is implied in the very proposition. The mechanician finds no difficulty with the laws of gravitation and motion ; but no mathematics can conceive established laws to govern the rains. It may not indeed be impossible ; but assuredly it appears impossible ; and, if it be, then does He himself, with his own hand, direct the clouds and the rains, as He directs gravitation by that same hand. If the one is the regular force or action, it is because regularity was necessary ; but the action is not the less His. The other is an irregular one, because such irregularity was probably useful, possibly indispensable ; and still more, therefore, should we refer it to Him and His direct interference. Yet we object to this solution in the latter case, even when we are willing to admit it in the former ; and why, but from the unworthy dogma, that conduct like this would be a personal and minute interference, and that the Creator does not or ought not to govern in His own works and world. The clouds are raised from the sea in a tenfold proportion compared to the land ; but in this proportion they do not fall into the sea again. Whether the efficient cause is here also to be sought in electricity, we can at least see the reason, and why, above all, they seek the mountains. The land was to be their destination ; for their office was to bring food to the vegetable world. The declivity of the mountains demand also a larger supply, since the water cannot there rest ; while to them, further, is it committed to distribute the streams to the lower lands, as the heart of this vital circulation. Everything is arranged accordingly ; the end is obvious, and the contrivance perfect. The Creator has entrusted still more to the clouds ; ever attaining many useful ends by one contrivance. They are a veil which He draws between the sun and the earth ; and who can doubt that this purpose was contemplated in their permanence, in their property of resisting the solvent power of the atmosphere ? We may sometimes complain of the evil, but we must not forget the good. All know the per-

sonal advantages which we so often derive from this arrangement ; by the traveller of the African deserts, at least, they are fully estimated. But all do not know that thus is vegetation fostered, and the imminent death of the tenderer plants prevented, by the check thus given to pernicious evaporation ; and even less, possibly, is it known that in this manner is the heat of the earth preserved under a similar check to the power of radiation. Is it nothing that the bountiful Father of all has rendered beautiful that which was useful, and also necessary ? has He not done this throughout all Creation ? The landscape of the sky, if I may use such a term, forms no small portion of the beauties of external nature. In itself it is a picture ; and it is indispensable to the picture beneath. Where all is for ever the same, the restless and various sky is an ever shifting and ever new picture, a perpetually changing landscape. We need not travel to seek fresh ones ; for they are brought to us hourly, and never yet were two alike. In form, in colour, in combination, the variety is endless ; and if, full often, it exceeds all which the inanimate creation can produce, some beauty is never wanting. Nor are this variety and this beauty limited to the sky alone ; for to the clouds, to their lights and shadows, and colours, and forms, and motions, has it been committed to change the face of the terrestrial landscape itself, and thus to produce, here also, those incessant variations which they cause in the heavens. And, like the liquid water, they are the life of the landscape, as they are the living principle of the sky, life itself. Far more indeed than water, since they are seldom absent, and never absent long. This is their beauty, exceeding all their other beauties ; this is their essential charm. The clouds and the ocean, these are the sufficient landscape ; in motion or at rest, they are pictures which never weary, as they are pictures to which there are no bounds ; and it is to them we owe the life and the spirit of the unmoving inanimate landscape of the earth. The sympathies of man, of life, are with life ; he feels the power of that secret which he has not investigated ; and it is in their motion that he feels what he knows not how to explain, the tie which draws him to a living creation to that universe which a soul inspires, as if it could sympathize with him, and, like himself, could feel."

THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE AND ITS FUNCTIONARIES.

THE awful threats dealt out by the head of the Celestial Empire to confidential servants strike Europeans as extraordinary. That they are not very effectual is proved by recent events. When Sir Henry

Pottinger demanded that an inquiry should be made into the massacre alleged to have taken place at the island of Formosa, the governor-general of Fokien was one of two commissioners appointed to conduct the investigation. This governor in his report gives a portion of his instructions, which appear to have run thus :—

"If Eliang in the slightest degree practise concealment, and will not cast aside every consideration of regard for the parties concerned, so that we shall be made to award reward and punishment, mistakenly and unjustly, and that injury shall be occasioned to the grand measure of pacification now pending, hereafter when we shall from some other source become aware of this, what, let Eliang ask himself, will be the punishment due to him? Let him well and tremblingly consider this; and let a copy of Keying's representation be forwarded to him."

Such was the Emperor's stern mandate. The following is Eliang's comment on it:—

"His Majesty's slave has received deep and abundant favours, which have entered into the very marrow and life of his being. With humility he has read the words of the imperial rescript. Luminous and bright, indeed, are these divine commands; brilliant as emanations from the heavenly lights themselves. And who and what is the Emperor's slave, that he should dare to cherish the least thought of deceit and falsehood? Moreover, Le Ting-yun and Soo Tingyuh could tell Keying of what they had heard, and should his Majesty's slave not truly and completely report the facts, how will he yet be able to prevent persons from telling of them?"

The individuals supposed to be inculcated by what had taken place at Formosa, were named Yaou-yung and Tahunga. They, no doubt, when entrusted with power, were enjoined with like sternness to be faithful to duty. The manner in which they transgressed has in it something originally monstrous. They had the matchless impudence to report warlike proceedings, and to claim fame and distinction as the heroic defenders of their country, when there had been no fighting. From the labours of Eliang and his colleague it was proved, as announced in the 'Pekin Gazette,' that—

"In consequence of Tahunga and Yaou-yung having reported, that, during the month of September, 1841, an English vessel had suddenly approached the coast of Formosa, when the said general of division, intendant of circuit, and others, led on the troops and militia to the attack and sunk the vessel; that, again, in the month of March last year, a foreign vessel suddenly entered the harbour, when the local officers and troops enticed her on to a shoal, and that they had on these occa-

sions successively caught and killed many of the foreigners, and captured sundry Chinese military weapons, flags, banners, and other things. Our imperial pleasure was, therefore, on each of those occasions, declared, graciously commending and rewarding the general, intendant, and all other persons who exerted themselves in the several affairs."

The truth is, some ships had been wrecked on the coast, and Tahunga and Yaou-hung had seized and murdered some of the helpless mariners. For this brutal outrage they received the honours due to conquerors. It was something like Bunking wholesale. Poor helpless sailors were seized and butchered, and presented to the head of the celestials as vanquished enemies. The searching inquiries of Eliang unveiled this enormous fraud, and the following facts were established:—

"That, of the two foreign vessels destroyed, one went to pieces from the bad weather encountered, and the other was driven on shore by stress of weather; that in neither case was there any meeting in battle or enticing into danger. On being examined into, Tahunga and Yaou-yung themselves have confessed that their report was a pre-arranged and made-up one, and that their crime is wholly undeniable, and have presented to Eliang their own depositions, requesting him to report clearly to us that they may meet due punishment."

The officers mentioned were not the only offenders. They had a multitude of accomplices; and the falsehood thus imposed on the Chinese authorities might have escaped detection for ever, but for the representations of the British. All the offenders have very properly been deprived of the honours so fraudulently obtained. The Imperial decree runs as follows:—

"Let Tahunga and Yaou-yung be deprived of their rank, and be handed over to the board of punishments, and let the ministers of the grand council be sent to join with the board in judging them, reporting fully to us the decision come to, and let all the officers and others who were recommended as having exerted themselves at Taewan, Kelung and Taan (excluding only the militia and other private individuals), and all the civil and military functionaries who have been promoted and commended for their diligence, be deprived of all the honours they have thus obtained."

How the "Board of punishments" will deal with the case remains to be seen. If they are as tardy in their movements as some European tribunals have been, years may elapse before the result is known. It is to be hoped, however, that an early day will bring the grateful tidings, that justice has been done upon these mean and cowardly assassins.



Arms. Sa., a cross, fretty, within a bordure, or.

Crest. A bear's head, couped at the neck, erm., muzzled, gu., buckled, or, collared of the second, studded gold of the third.

Supporters. Two bears, erm., muzzled and collared, gu., chained, or, the collar studded with five bezants, and pendant thereto a shield of the arms.

Motto. "In solo Deus salus." "In God alone is salvation."

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF HAREWOOD.

THE family of Lascelles has been of importance in the county of York from the time of Edward I, when, in the year 1295, Roger de Lascelles was summoned to parliament as a baron. He died in 1295, leaving no male issue, but four daughters, his co-heirs, when the barony fell into abeyance, and has continued so till the present time. The heir of that lord, could he now be found, would be entitled to a revival of the barony.

John de Lascelles, of Hindersheffe (now Castle Howard), was living in 1315, and from him lineally descended, through a long line of highly respectable ancestors, we find Francis Lascelles, Esq., of Stank and North Allerton, M.P. for the North Riding of Yorkshire in 1653, and a Colonel in the Parliamentary army. He was succeeded by his son, Daniel Lascelles, of Stank and North Allerton, who served the office of Sheriff of York in 1719, and represented North Allerton in Parliament. He married, first, the daughter of William Metcalf, Esq., of North Allerton, by whom he had, with other issue, a son named Henry. His second wife was Mary, daughter of Edward Lascelles, Esq., of London, and left an only surviving son, Edward, who became Collector of the Customs at Barbadoes, and left a son of the same name when he died in 1747. That son eventually inherited the family estates, and was created Baron Harewood. Mr Daniel Lascelles, above named, died in 1734, and Henry Lascelles, Esq., his son by his first lady, became of Harewood, Stank, and North Allerton. He was a Director of the East India Company, and married Janet, daughter of John Whetstone, Esq., of the island of Barbadoes. At his decease, in 1745, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward Lascelles, Esq., who was elevated to the peerage July 9, 1790, by the style and title of Lord Harewood, of Harewood

Castle, county of York. His lordship married twice, but died without issue January 25, 1795, when the barony expired, but the estates passed to the heir-at-law—Edward Lascelles. This gentleman, already mentioned as the second son of Daniel Lascelles, was born January 7, 1740. He sat for North Allerton in several parliaments, and was raised to the peerage June 18, 1796, by the title of the former lord. He had been married May 12, 1761, to Ann, daughter of William Chaloner, Esq., of Gainsborough, by whom he had issue, Edward, who died unmarried in 1814, Henry the present peer, and two daughters. His lordship was advanced to a viscounty and earldom September 7, 1812, by the titles of Viscount Lascelles and Earl of Harewood. He died April 3, 1820. The present peer, who then succeeded to his estates and honours, was born December 25, 1767, and married, on the 3rd of September, 1794, Henrietta, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant-General Sir John Saunders Sebright, bart., who died February 15, 1840. By her he had a large family, of whom the eldest son, Edward, Viscount Lascelles, born July 18, 1796, is now heir to the title.

The Earl of Harewood is Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the West-Riding of Yorkshire, and High Steward of Allerton.

Atmospheric Railway.—The railways which now enjoy so perfect a monopoly are threaten'd with competition. The speed of the atmospheric mode of travelling, it is said, as far exceeds that of the locomotive plan, as the locomotive speed exceeds that of the stage coaches; this mode also reduces the expenses one-half, which the locomotive system does not, it being as expensive, or more so than the coaches. Let these promises be realized and we shall really see wonders.

DR KEENAN'S LECTURES AT THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

THE HUMAN BODY AN ELECTRO-MOTIVE MACHINE. RESPIRATION THE PROCESS OF GENERATING THE ELECTRO-MOMENTUM.

THERE has long been a suspicion that electricity is more intimately connected with animal motions than is commonly supposed. It is now for the first time that that suspicion has assumed the form of a system of electro-human philosophy. Dr Keenan has not only proved beyond the possibility of a doubt that the body is an electro-motive engine, but has in a great measure referred the facts of physiology and medicine to this great principle, with the same simplifying and elucidating effect as that with which the facts of physical nature are referred to the law of gravitation. Nothing can be more beautiful and conclusive (to all prepared for its appreciation) than his proofs of the fundamental law of the constitution of our nature, which lay hidden till he revealed it, and nothing for centuries (not excepting even the law of gravitation or of the atomic theory) has introduced such order among so many scattered and apparently dissimilar facts. The lecturer commenced by enumerating an assemblage of well-known phenomena, which, though of the most apparently heterogeneous nature, were at once reduced to a common principle of causation—namely, that the active energies of every being created, were in the ratio of the available oxidizement of respiratory food by the air breathed. Respiratory food was clearly shown to be for a purpose not hitherto suspected, — to act as the zinc-plate of the galvanic battery, and as the amalgam of the electrifying machine; and air, instead of subserving the purposes commonly imputed to it, is for the purpose of oxidizing the food to extricate the electric force that moves the living body. Considering that the true function of the lungs is only now being developed, and that that is the fundamental function of life, we are on the eve of a great change in the philosophy of medicine and physiology; indeed, a system of medicine must soon be introduced, wherein disease will be considered as an alteration of the constituency of the chemical elements of the body, and of the electro-energy which actuates the whole. His lecture has excited more interest than any we have heard for a long time.

A Former Lady Harrington.—The politeness of the last century would seem not to have been excessive, if we may judge from the Earl of Carlisle calling George Selwyn's attention to an advertisement in the papers "to desire Lady Harrington would not disturb the audience at the playhouse with her snuffing gabble."

THE BELLS OF MALMAISON.

"The sound of bells," says Bourrienne, "produced upon Bonaparte a singular effect. When we were at Malmaison, and walking in the avenue leading to the plains of Buzel, how often has the ringing of bells interrupted our conversations. 'Ah!' said he, 'this recalls to my mind the first years I passed at Brienne; I was then happy.'"

The vanquisher of Italy
Stood list'ning to the sound
Of joyous-pealing village bells,
Which echo gladness round;
And ev'ry tone fell on his ear,
Like the remember'd voice
Of one whose gentle accents made
Our youthful hearts rejoice.

They told him of those early years
When boyish hope beat high,
With more than he had realis'd
In blood-ting'd victory;
There was not in the trumpet's breath
Proclaiming triumph, aught
That ever could compensate all
With which those hours were fraught.

The land where once the Cæsars rul'd
Was prostrate at his feet,
And Egypt had essay'd in vain
His armies to defeat;
But when the laurel glory twin'd
Around his victor brow,
The thorns of envy and of hate
There soon were hands to sow.

As elevated tracts receive
Less genial heat than plains,
So fame's steep pinnacle, where'er
Its height ambition gains,
Is void of that calm halo, which
Upon the lowly shines,
Tho' hid, perchance, like gems that deck
Unknown Peruvian mines.

L. M. S.

SINGING IN CHURCHES.

(From the 'Life and Times of the good Lord Cobham'.)

SINGING in churches made great progress in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It was bitterly condemned by the Reformers of the period, and by Lord Cobham among the rest.*

In this as in many cases where the consciences of the friends to reform were

* Many of their successors were not less unfriendly to harmony. Erasmus found it one of the abominations of his times. "We have," said he, "introduced into the churches, a certain elaborate theatrical species of music, accompanied with a tumultuous diversity of voices. All is full of trumpets, cornets, pipes, fiddles, and singing. We come to a church as to a playhouse; and for this purpose ample salaries are expended on organists, and societies of boys, whose whole time is wasted in learning to sing;—not to mention the great revenues which the church squanders away on the stipends of singing men, who are commonly great drunkards, buffoons, and chosen from the lowest of the people. These fooleries are so agreeable to the monks, especially in England, that youths, boys, &c., every morning sing to the organ the mass of the Virgin Mary, with the most harmonious modulations of voice; and the bishops are obliged to keep choirs of this kind in their families."

The evil was probably much greater when he thus expressed himself, than in the preceding century.

disturbed, it is not difficult to perceive that a pecuniary grievance formed part of the subject matter of complaint—it is clear the singers expected payment. The avarice of the priests in claiming to be paid for singing, exasperated the malcontents. Their demands were most likely high, possibly enormous, where great talent was recognised; but nothing appears to justify the extreme horror manifested by some of the Reformers for the practice. It was not simply objected to as inappropriate, or censured as improper, but it was condemned as outraging all decency—as exceedingly sinful in itself, and most offensive to God. The priest who sang for money was condemned as worse than the traitor who betrayed the Saviour of mankind to the Jews, that he might be crucified. The priests so occupied were said to sell Christ, not merely once, as Judas did, but many times. "Judas sold him once, in the form of mortal man, for thirty pence, but afterwards repented, and brought the money back again. The priest sold him in his glorified form, and for a smaller price, and till brought to pennance, returned not the money." When throughout the church rapacity was manifested in so many other ways, it was not to be expected that priests who found themselves possessed of superior vocal powers, would fail to claim some present advantage for their exertion. That what must appear to us the most innocent, the least objectionable exaction of the age, should have provoked such extravagant hostility, is a circumstance not easily to be understood. Lord Cobham, indeed, contended that singing in church was not countenanced by Scripture. That was denied, and with much apparent reason. The Apostle James, in the fifth chapter and thirteenth verse, says, "Is any merry?—Let him sing psalms." This distinct permission given by one of the disciples of Jesus seems to be all sufficient, unless it could be proved that to be merry was inconsistent with devotion. Such an opinion has been so frequently entertained by good men, that the young and unreflecting have in consequence been scared or weaned from the path of true piety, by distaste for the harshness and severity supposed to be identified with it. On the behalf of music it was urged, that instrumental and vocal strains had been, from the earliest times, associated with the worship of the Most High; that David had delighted to play on his harp, and to offer his gratitude to the Lord through such a medium; and that the angels in heaven—to join whom in their celestial exercise was the highest hope of all Christian men—were described as for ever singing 'Glory to God,' and therefore such exercises had the distinct sanction of holy writ.

These arguments were not easily refuted, and the general feeling ran strongly in favour of a more enthusiastic strain, forming part of divine worship, than could be found in common reading or speaking. A disposition to connect song with devotional exercise has prevailed in all ages. At various periods it has grown into a passion, and the directors of public solemnities have, by their arrangements, manifested an impression that the Deity was more likely to be moved by music than propitiated by prayer. It was such extravagance that moved the indignation of Cobham, and those who acted with him. They turned with disgust from the enthusiast who thought to gain heaven by sweet sounds, which they persuaded themselves were so agreeable to God, that they actually took measures to render the solemn joyous chorus, which they commenced here, "eternal in the heavens."

The *laus perennius* it was proposed to keep up without one moment's pause, by relays of monks and nuns from day to day, from month to month, and from year to year. The individual performers were changed at certain periods, but not all at once. Those who withdrew to take food or sleep, first saw their places duly supplied, and it was contemplated that, as years rolled away and death successively snatched the original vocalists from earth, others should be appointed to chant the praises of God, which were thus to be continued till the day of judgment arrived, and the last singer was only to be stilled here, that his voice might pass above the skies, there to join in the hallelujahs which it was supposed his fellows were already chanting before the Almighty and his angels, and would continue to sing through a blissful eternity.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.

BY PROFESSOR LONGFELLOW.

Under a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat, and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly,
Like chaff from a threshing floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

It sounds to him like her mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise!
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Tolling—rejoicing—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus, at the flaming forge of life,
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus, on its sounding anvil shaped,
Each burning deed and thought!

GARDENING HINTS FOR FEBRUARY.

HOUSES, CONSERVATORIES, &c.

Conservatory.—Where forced flowers are introduced less air should be admitted than for a collection of conservatory plants. See that Orange trees, Neriums, and other plants are clear of insects. Rhododendrons and Azaleas are among the finest and easiest plants to force for the conservatory, and seeds from forced plants of them crossed are always more to be depended on for novelties than those from the open ground.

Greenhouse.—Seeds of heaths, and of all woody half-hardy plants may be sown and reared in hot beds or stoves; sow Rhododendron and Azalea seed; seedlings of them of last year might now be forced, and afterwards hardened off before next May, when they might be planted out of doors. This treatment brings them sooner to a flowering state.

FLOWER-GARDEN.

Out-door Department.

Pit and Frames.—Protect securely at night, but give all the air possible in the day-time. Calceolarias, Heliotropiums, &c., may be potted off preparatory to being hardened for the flower garden.

Auriculas may be top-dressed, removing carefully the surface soil, and substituting some two-year decayed hot-bed manure

and leaf-soil. Avoid all hot, stimulating composts.

Polyanthuses, grown in pots, may be kept moderately moist, and a similar top-dressing as that recommended for the Auricula will be of infinite service to them. They are, however, grown on beds, with a north-east aspect, with great success.

Carnations.—Still give all air possible. If the green-fly begins to be troublesome, remove it with a camel-hair brush.

Pinks.—As spring advances, the wire-worm gets more active and mischievous. If you have reason to suspect that any of these lurk in your beds, cut a potato into quarters, inserting a skewer in each; place them in various parts just below the soil, and examine them daily. This is an effectual trap.

Ranunculuses.—In selecting roots for blooming, choose those with a high crown in preference to size. The following are a few that will make an improvement in any collection:—Tysoe's Edgar, yellow, edged with puce; Costar's Apollo, crimson self; Mr Welch, white, edged with deep pink; Madeline, white, beautiful rosy edge; Bartlett's Charlotte, superbly mottled; and Esther, white, purple edge. The old flowers:—Naxara, splendid dark; Socrates, olive; and Le Temeraire, pink stripe—still continue the best in their respective classes, most of the new seedlings being either edged, spotted, or mottled.

Melons.—Prepare now a bed of well-fermented dung, and leaves for planting out upon, using faggots of brush-wood for the first two feet in height.

HARDY FRUIT AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

Planting.—Prepare the ground for fruit-trees not planted in the autumn, by thoroughly draining the borders and forming a substratum through which the roots will not easily penetrate. In the absence of paving-stone, tiles, &c., a good substitute may be formed of coarse gravel and finely-sifted quicklime, in the proportion of six of the former to one of the latter, mixed well together with a sufficiency of water, and laid down to the depth of four or five inches. From fifteen to eighteen inches depth of soil will be sufficient for peaches and apricots; much less will do, if the borders are mulched and cropping dispensed with. No manure ought to be mixed with the soil.

Cucumbers.—Prepare fermenting materials for their growth in frames.

Routine Management.—Dig, ridge, and turn up all empty ground in favourable weather. Give plenty of air to all advancing crops in frames. Clean and stir the soil among all growing crops in the open garden; remove all decaying leaves.

COTTAGERS' GARDENS.

Soap-suds have a good effect on many

kinds of vegetables, and should not be thrown away; they act beneficially on soils where cabbages are infested with the club, and in some instances have been known to entirely cure that disease.

Vegetables.—A sowing of radishes may be made on a warm border, but they must be protected from frost by covering the bed with straw. If any digging or trenching yet remains to be done, no time should be lost in getting it forwarded while the weather permits.

Fruit.—In pruning gooseberry and currant bushes, care must be taken to thin them well out in the centre, so as to admit plenty of sun and air. The same remark is also applicable to standard apple trees; the middle of the tree must be kept quite open, taking care that all the branches lead outwards, and preserving a regular distance from each other. Pear trees should also be thinned well out, and the produce will be much better in quality.

Flowers.—Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, &c., in pots, should have as much light and air as possible; they should be sparingly watered, and this ought always to be done in the morning; if they are inclined to grow up tall and slender, the points of the shoots may be pinched off by the finger and thumb, and this will induce them to throw out side branches, and make them dwarf and bushy. Anything that is likely to be injured by frost should be carefully watched and protected from it by straw or fern.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

THE POWER OF ATTRACTION.

Miss B. "fell in love" with Monsieur,
Who was larger, and very much taller;
We ascribe it, *sans doute*, to the law
Which attracts to great bodies, the smaller.
L. M. S.

Rebels.

Puss in Boots, and the Marquis of Carabas.
The juveniles are in extraordinary good luck this year. From east to west we find nothing more carefully attended to than the literary and pictorial wants of the rising generation. In the whimsical affair before us we have a very amusing history of our elderly friend 'Puss in Boots,' containing some important facts which were omitted by his former biographers. The cuts, twelve in number, from drawings by Lewis Haghe, are appropriately playful. There is elegance and spirit associated with the frolicsome performances of the cat, and they are admirably printed on stone by Day and Haghe, lithographers to the Queen. One brief extract we must borrow:—

"'They tell me,' continued Puss, 'that you have carried science to such a pitch, that you can at pleasure assume the form

of any animal you like. Although I have paid some attention to magic, this does appear to me, I must say, incredible.' 'I'll soon give you a proof of it,' said the Magician, and instantly stood before him turned into an elephant. The Cat politely requested him to assume his own shape, otherwise he should faint with terror; and in a moment the Magician re-appeared, seated as at first, in his arm-chair. 'There's a trick for you!' said he; 'you certainly never saw a more wonderful performance than that.' The cat expressed his astonishment, but hinted that he had once seen an artist who could turn himself into the smallest sized animals, which was certainly even more wonderful, as he could not comprehend what became of the huge human body. 'That is a mere nothing,' said the Magician; and at the same instant began leaping about the room in the shape of a mouse. The Cat was after him directly; and, before he could recollect the right word to utter in order to disenchant himself, the Cat had seized him in his teeth, killed him as dead as a door-nail, and eaten him!"

The Eglintoun Tournament in 1839. Puckle (late Colnaghi and Puckle.)

This is one of the most beautiful works that has been published for some time, and forms a splendid book for the drawing-room table. It consists of twenty-two plates, from drawings taken on the spot by Mr Nixon, lithographed by Aubrey and Loielot, and accompanied by historical and descriptive notices from the pen of the Rev. J. Richardson, LL.D., &c. The points are elaborately coloured; great care being taken faithfully to delineate the dazzling pageantry of the tournament. Around each print, forming a border, is a very appropriate design, which greatly enriches the work. The letter-press is highly illuminated. The first fourteen plates consist of the procession to the lists, which are as follows:—Earl of Eglintoun, with body guard, Knight Marshal, King of the Tournament, Queen of Beauty, Lord of the Tournament, Knight of the Griffin and Dragon, Knight of the Lion, &c.; general view of the lists, the challenge, the joust, the *mêlée*, the presentation, the banquet, the ball, &c., &c. This work must be seen to be properly appreciated, and we only wonder how such a book can be offered for ten guineas.

Miscellaneous.

EFFECT OF ROCKETS ON THE ABYSSINIANS.—As soon as it became dark, rockets, which had been brought by the embassy, were to be discharged from the tents, by the king's express desire. With firearms the Abyssinians were previously

acquainted; and the brass galloper (cannon) which had echoed so recently, although viewed with wonderful respect, was still only the engine, on a colossal scale, to which they were familiarized. But these were the first rockets of which his majesty had viewed the flight; and the impression they produced upon his mind, as he gazed from his watch tower, was scarcely less than that worked upon his assembled subjects. Night had thrown her sable mantle around, and the novel principle of ascent, with the grandeur of the brilliant rush into the skies, afforded matter of amazement to all spectators. When the projectile started, with a loud roar, from its bed, men, women, and children, fell flat upon their faces. Horses and mules broke loose from their tethers, and the warrior who had any heart remaining shouted aloud.—*Major Harris's Highlands of Ethiopia.*

RUSSIAN BARBARITY.—Twice every week were ten or twelve Gipsies or Wallachians, useless or criminal fellows, conducted to a public square from the prison or house of correction; here they were stripped naked to the middle. Some one took the prisoner on his back, and held his hands fast over his shoulders, while another seized the feet; a third carried the weapons, an armful of great sticks as thick as one's thumb; the fourth stood waiting and ready to strike. A Russian drummer gave the signal on his drum, when a hundred strokes were counted on the naked body of the culprit, which caused him to utter the most horrible outcries. A second signal was given by the drummer, and a second hundred was told out to the unhappy wretch. In this manner he received from three to four hundred strokes on the back. After this execution, the poor prisoner presented a dreadful spectacle. The flesh hung in rags from his back, and you saw little but the naked bones. They had then spirits dashed over them, at which they shrieked again horribly with the agony. Finally they were conducted to the salt-pits, where they were compelled to hard labour for from four to six years. The majority of them sunk under it,—rarely did any one return.—*Wanderings of a Journeyman Tailor.*

TREATMENT OF SERVANTS IN THE NETHERLANDS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.—Before the Statthalter rises, the clothes must be brushed clean, and laid in order on the table; shoes and boots cleaned and set under the bench; fresh water and a towel must be in readiness. His excellency must be most delicately dressed, and what he lays aside be carefully put by. The meals are to be served in good order, without spilling, and the dishes to be taken away with a bow. If any one nibbles at things, and puts his finger or his mouth into the dishes, he shall be made to eat hot

and burning food to cure him of his greediness. Every one is bound, when called upon, to step forward, making a reverence, and to say grace with a clear and audible voice. He who stutters and hesitates shall receive six fillips on the nose. If any man waits at table with dirty hands, he shall do as if he were washing them, while one pours water over them, and another dries them with two sharp rods till they bleed. In like manner, he who waits uncombed, shall be well curried in the stable with the currycomb. The table-cloth is to be spread at one cast; every plate to have a napkin, and the salt-cellars to be filled with clean salt. At the proper time, candles are to be brought, and to be constantly snuffed, every time beginning at the place where the highest guest sits. Lastly, the table-cloth is to be removed in a mannerly way; and the servants are to retire with a reverence, under pain of six fillips on the nose. Whoever mixes in the conversation, or grins at what is said, shall be made to blow till he is tired: whoever laughs loud shall have four raps over the fingers. Whoever fills a glass too full, and then sips it out with his own mouth, shall have twenty lashes with a whip. He who hands a dirty glass may have his choice between four boxes on the ear, or six fillips on the nose. After dinner, a basin of water and a clean towel is to be handed (with reverence) to every guest. As it is a scandalous and insufferable thing for servants to be long at meals, those who are more than a quarter of an hour at dinner shall have it taken away from them.—*Hardenburgh Archives, 1666.*

A MAN OF OTHER DAYS.—One remnant of the Royal House of Stuart survives. He still lives at Tweedmouth, having completed his 115th year at Christmas, 1843. His father, General John Stuart, was a cousin of "Prince Charlie," the Pretender. His grandmother was the Lady of Arlie, well known in the old Scotch song. James Stuart saw those memorable battles during the rebellion of 1745, Prestonpans and Culloden, and has spoken to and partaken of wine with the Pretender. He served on the side of the Royalists in the American war, and was at the battle of Quebec, where General Wolfe lost his life at the moment of victory. He served on board of a man-of-war for many years under those naval heroes Admiral Rodney and Rear-Admiral Hood. He has been five times married, and now lives with a fifth wife, seventy-five years younger than himself. He has had by his several wives twenty-five children; ten of them have been killed in battle, five of them in India, two at Trafalgar, under Nelson, one at Waterloo, and two at Algiers. For nearly sixty years he has travelled in the Border districts as a wandering minstrel,

playing on a fiddle, but he never asked alms from any one. Hundreds of persons can bear testimony to his amazing strength, from which circumstance he got the by-name of "Jemmy Strength." Among other feats he could carry a 24-pounder cannon, and he has been known to lift a cart-load of hay, weighing a ton and a half, on his back. Many a time he has taken up a jackass, and walked through the toll-bar carrying it on his shoulders.

PORTRAITS OF JEFFREY AND SCOTT BY SOUTHEY.—"I have been at Edinburgh and there seen Jeffrey. When he was invited to meet me, he very properly sent me the sheets, that I might see him or not, according to my own feelings: this was what he could not well avoid, but it was not the less gentlemanlike. I met him in good humour, being by God's blessing of a happy temper: having seen him, it were impossible to be angry with anything so diminutive. We talked about the question of taste on which we are at issue. He is a mere child upon that subject: I never met with a man whom it was so easy to check-mate." In the same letter he wrote—"I passed three days with Walter Scott, an amusing and highly estimable man. You see the whole extent of his powers in the 'Minstrel's Lay,' of which your opinion seems to accord with mine,—a very amusing poem; it excites a novel-like interest, but you discover nothing on after-perusal. Scott bears a great part in the 'Edinburgh Review,' but does not review well. He is editing Dryden,—very carelessly; the printer has only one of the late common editions to work from, which has never been collated, and is left to make conjectural emendations. This I learned from Ballantyne himself in his printing-office."

SALE OF A CLOAK AND ROBE.—"[An agreement for the sale by Isaac Burgess to John Alleyn, 'citizen and inholder,' of a cloak and robe, no doubt for the purpose of being worn on the stage. The price, 16*l*., seems very high, recollecting the great difference in money then and now: it affords another proof of how much was expended at this date upon theatrical apparel.]—Be yt known unto all men by these presentes, that I, Isaacke Burges, of Cliffordes Inne, London, gent., for and in consideration of the somme of sixtene pounds of good and lawfull money of Englande, to me before hand payde by John Allene, Cytizen and Inholder of London, have bargainde and solde, and by theise presents doe fully, clearlie, and absolutely bargain, sell, and deliver unto the sayd John Allene, in playne and open market of or within the Cytty of London, one cloke of velvette, with a cape imbrothered with gold, pearles, and redd stones, and one roabe of cloth of golde: to have and to holde the sayd cloke and roabe with th appertanances,

unto the sayde John Allene, his executors and assignes for ever, to the onely use and behoof of the sayde John Allene, his executors or assignes for ever, as his and their owne propper goodes and chattels. And I, the said Isaacke Burges, the sayd cloke and roabe againste all men shall and will warraunte and defende for ever, by theise presentes. In witnes whereof, I have hereunto putt my hande and seale the xxiiijth days of November, in the xxxiiijth yere of the reign of our sovereigne lady Quene Elizabeth, &c., 1590.—P. me, Isaacus Burges.—Sealed and delivered in the presence of me, John Deane, Scr.—James Tonstall."—*Alleyn Papers*.

A SKELETON FOUND.—A few days ago, as some workmen were employed in demolishing the ruins of a tower of an old manor-house, near the Chapelle-gaugain, on the confines of the Sarthe, they came on a skeleton which was recognised as that of a female. A chaplet of glass beads was found round the neck, and on two of the fingers were gold rings, one bearing the letters C.D.B., and the other, in which was a turquoise, the figure of a turtle, engraved on the gold, with the word *Impossible* close to it. The skeleton was in a place only just large enough to hold it. The teeth are in excellent preservation, and evidently belonged to a young woman. About two hundred years ago this residence belonged to Jacques des Loges, Gentleman of the Chamber to Louis XIII. By a legal process this estate was declared forfeited, but he was subsequently allowed to sell it, and in the act of sale he signed for his wife, whom he declared to be absent, but engaged to produce her ratification within a period of six weeks. This ratification, however, is not to be found amongst the titles of the property, which are otherwise complete. The wife of Jacques des Loges was Catherine de Broc; C.D.B.

GASTRONOMIC ENTHUSIASM.—After sitting a quarter of an hour, discussing many important topics, we returned to my friend's tent, when, at a proper hour, we sat down to part of a large boiled mahaseer. I have eaten most of the *civilized* fish, such as the salmon, cod, skate, turbot, flounders, and flukes, perch, pike, carp, pomfret, bumelow, shark, dolphin, and cuttlefish, bectee, mango, and hiala, and scores of others, but I never have eaten anything so delicious as was this glorious mahaseer. My friend, whether out of the most exalted generosity, or the most lamentable ignorance, though he is certainly fully capable of the former feeling, of his own accord presented me with the head and shoulders. It was one of the largest I had ever seen. To devour the whole, at starting, seemed an impossibility; but I accomplished it, and even the recollection soothes me. The palate was two

full mouthful, the large fat eyes were a mouthful each, the brain another, "never ending still beginning," luscious and yet unsatisfying. Reader, if you are an epicure, and yet never ate the head and shoulders of a large fresh-boiled mahaseer, hie thee to Hurdwar; get Kirke to catch one for you; ask him to dinner: and if I be in the neighbourhood, and you wish to enjoy a good dinner and pleasant talk, send for me, and I'll engage that you shall "go to your repose" in a charming frame of mind.—*Davidson's Travels in Upper India.*

DR DODD'S EXECUTION.—In the first volume of the 'Mirror' for 1843, p. 393, the contemporary reports of his dying moments are given. A letter written by Mr Storer to gratify George Selwyn, who was said to be in such matters an amateur, confirms the general accuracy of what was there stated, but supplies some additional facts:—The Doctor, to all appearance, was rendered perfectly stupid from despair. His hat was flapped all round, and pulled over his eyes, which were never directed to any object around, nor even raised, except now and then lifted up in the course of his prayers. He came in a coach, and a very heavy shower of rain fell just upon his entering the cart, and another just at his putting on his night-cap. He was a considerable time in praying, which some people standing about seemed rather tired with; they rather wished for some more interesting part of the tragedy. The wind, which was high, blew off his hat, which rather embarrassed him, and discovered to us his countenance, which we could scarcely see before. His hat, however, was soon restored to him, and he went on with his prayers. There were two clergymen attending him, one of whom seemed very much affected. The other, I suppose, was the ordinary of Newgate, as he was perfectly indifferent and unfeeling in every thing that he said and did. The executioner took both the hat and wig off at the same time. Why he put on his wig again I do not know, but he did, and the Doctor took off his wig a second time, and then tied on a night-cap which did not fit him; but whether he stretched that or took another, I could not perceive. He then put on his night-cap himself, and upon his taking it he certainly had a smile on his countenance, and very soon afterwards there was an end of all his hopes and fears on this side the grave. He never moved from the place he first took in the cart; seemed absorbed in despair, and utterly dejected, without any other signs of animation but in praying. I know the same thing strikes different people different ways, but thus he seemed to me, and I was very near. A vast number of people were collected, as you may imagine. I stayed till he was cut down and put into the hearse.

The Gaiety.

Anecdote of Sir Francis Burdett.—When Sir Francis Burdett was tried at Leicester for a seditious libel, in March 1820, on the trial being fixed for the Thursday, early on Tuesday he entered the town in the costume of the Melton Hunt, wearing a scarlet jacket. He breakfasted with a party at the Three Crowns, and there joined the hounds, which threw off at a distance of four miles. He was in the field till three in the afternoon, when he dined with a convivial party. On Wednesday morning he was again with the hunt, and in allusion to the approaching inquiry told some of his companions that "he supposed they would throw off after him on the following day."

To the Unchanged Villain.—Count Anersperg's solemn admonitions might not inappositely be addressed to some of the swindling bankrupts of the present day:—"Thou art an awful sinner! true, our laws yet leave thee free; But within thy soul in terror rack and gallows must thou see.

Smite thy breast then in contrition, thy bowed head strew ashes o'er;
Bend thy knee—make full confession,—'Go thy way and sin no more!'

London in the time of the Romans.—When Sir Christopher Wren was re-building Bow Church, beneath eighteen feet of made ground he found what appeared to be a Roman causeway of rough stone, close and well rammed with Roman brick, and rubbish at the bottom for a foundation, and all firmly cemented. This causeway he ascertained to be four feet thick, under which lay the natural clay, that descends at least forty feet lower. On this Roman causeway he determined to lay the foundation of the tower, as most proper to bear a structure of great weight. Sir Christopher was of opinion, for various reasons, that this highway ran along the northern boundary of the colony. The breadth, then, north and south, was from the causeway (now Cheapside) to the river Thames; the extent, east and west, from Tower hill to Ludgate; and the principal middle street, or prætorium way, was Watling street.

The Duke of Otranto and Prince Talleyrand.—According to a homely expression, "there was no love lost" between Fouché and Talleyrand. The former said, "Talleyrand est nul" till after he has drunk a bottle of Madeira: and the latter asked, "Do you not think that Fouché has very much the air of a country comedian?"—*Lord Brougham.*

Death of Lord Strafford.—On the night before Strafford's execution, he earnestly desired to speak with Laud. The Lieutenant of the Tower not having power to grant his request, he sent a message to the

Archbishop to pray for him that night, and to give him his blessing on the morrow as he passed his window on his way to the scaffold. The next morning the Archbishop, apprized of his approach, came to the window; then the Earl bowing to the ground—"My Lord," said he, "your prayers and your blessing." The Archbishop lifted up his hands, and bestowed both: but, overcome with grief, fell to the ground in *animi deliquio*. The Earl, bowing the second time, said, "Farewell, my Lord; God protect your innocence."

The Birth of the Princess Victoria.—That was a bright day to the illustrious parents of our young and beloved monarch, when her birth was announced to a waiting and anxious nation. The duke wept for joy, and the fact that the infant was a daughter, and not a son, did not appear in the least to diminish the general rejoicing. The country appeared to be relieved by the event from a considerable pressure of anxiety, for Prince George of Cumberland was not born till three days afterwards, and Prince George of Cambridge was the then only issue of the royal marriages of 1818.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

Honesty in Trade.—At the lowest calculation, there are 150,000 labels, printed with French type in the French language, annually cleared at the London custom house alone. These labels, so imported wet from Paris, are here used for wrapping round English-made "French" soaps, scents, pomatums, and cosmetics in endless variety, known by the French names of *Fixatur, Philocom, Oleophone, Sachets, &c.*

Hint to Lovers of Flowers.—A most beautiful and easily-attained show of evergreens in winter may be had by a very simple plan, which has been found to answer remarkably well on a small scale. If geranium leaves (branches?) are taken from healthy and luxurious trees, just before the winter sets in, cut as for slips, and immersed in soap and water, they will, after drooping for a few days, shed their leaves, put forth fresh ones, and continue in the finest vigour all the winter. By placing a number of bottles thus filled in flower baskets, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreens is easily ensured for a whole season. They require no fresh water.

Effects of soaking Seeds in Chemical Solutions.—Seeds of wheat steeped in sulphate of ammonia on the 5th of July had by the 10th of August, the last day of the show, tillered into nine, ten, and eleven stems of nearly equal vigour; while seeds of the same sample, unprepared, and sown at the same time in the same soil, had not tillered into more than two, three, and four stems. The time of steeping varied from fifty to ninety-four hours, at a temperature of about 60° Fahrenheit. I found, however, that barley does not succeed so well if

steeped beyond sixty hours. Rye-grass and other gramineous seeds do with steeping from sixteen to twenty hours, and clovers from eight to ten, but not more.—*Mr Campbell's Transactions of the Highland Society*.

"As Good as a Play."—King Charles the Second attended the debates in the House of Lords. He received their lordships' thanks for his condescension. Andrew Marvel, writing on this subject some time after his Majesty's *debut*, thus expressed himself:—"The King has ever since continued his session among them, and says it is better than going to a play."

A Word to the Wise.—"Parson, I had much rather hear you preach," said a baffled, swindling horse-jockey, "than see you interfere in bargains between man and man!" "Well," replied the parson, "if you had been where you ought to have been last Sunday, you might have heard me preach." "Where was that?" inquired the jockey. "In the state prison," returned the clergyman.

The Hydropathic System.—One of the English captives at Teyrien gives the following evidence in favour of hydropathy. It is a female who writes:—"We contrived to make ourselves a little tea; and then, with our clothes all wet as they were, prepared ourselves for sleep: this was a matter of no small difficulty; for, huddled together as we were, it was next to impossible for all to find room to stretch their limbs. However, with our feet towards the still smouldering fire, we did our best; and, strange to say, all woke in the morning tolerably refreshed; and though our clothes were still wet upon us, neither man, woman, nor child of our party was the worse for their yesterday's drenching."

A Literary Treat.—Ozias Linley having once expressed an inclination to read the 'Memorabilia' of Xenophon, a waggish friend promised to supply him with that beautiful composition, the language of which is simplicity itself, though abounding in the refinements of the Attic dialect. But instead of Xenophon, the wag brought him Euclid's treatise on music in the original Greek,—a work which, being involved in its construction, was nearly unintelligible to him. After a fortnight's labour, Ozias threw the book aside, and told the person who had placed it in his hands, in answer to an inquiry how he liked the 'Memorabilia,' that he expected to have read more about Socrates, but the dog was so long in getting to him, that his patience was quite exhausted, and he had given up the book in despair.

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